

## EUCLID Eucalypts of Australia

by Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research

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EUCLID is incredibly easy to use, making it ideal for beginners to eucalypt identification as well as for those more experienced. A short ten minute tutorial explains how to use the program and is invaluable for the novice, but those familiar with Lucid keys may find the tutorial helpful to make best use of the key.

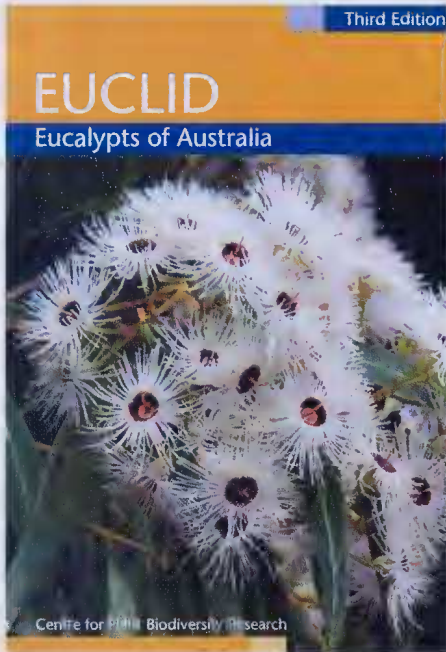
The home page allows one to choose to:

1. learn about eucalypts,
2. identify a eucalypt,
3. browse species information or
4. find out a little more about EUCLID.

In 'learning about eucalypts' there is a short introduction, which explains that EUCLID includes the long standing genus *Angophora* and the more recently described *Corymbia*. It is followed by brief notes on the evolution and distribution of eucalypts

and on the identification of eucalypts. In the latter section, the importance of being able to recognise whether a tree is cultivated or occurs in a particular area naturally is explained. If it is cultivated, identification cannot use 'geographic region' as a character state when using EUCLID in trying to key out a species. The section on 'inspection of species' is more substantial and provides important information on many eucalypt features, providing essential understanding that will aid identification. 'A brief history of *Eucalyptus*, *Angophora* and *Corymbia*' provides understanding of the underlying systematics, and shows the importance of including these genera in *EUCLID Eucalypts of Australia*. This section is followed by a discussion of the evolutionary relationships of eucalypts and hybridisation.

Clicking on 'identify a eucalypt' opens to a window with four smaller windows labelled with 'characters available', 'character states chosen', 'taxa remaining' or 'taxa discarded'. The 'characters available' window provides a list of 120 characters that can be selected to describe the specimen being identified. Each character has one or more states. Double clicking on the state of choice will make it appear in the character states chosen window. EUCLID then filters out any taxa that do not have this characteristic and moves them from the 'taxa remaining' to the 'taxa discarded' window. As successively more and more character states are chosen, only one taxon (occasionally two) eventually will be left in the 'taxa remaining' window. Presuming no mistake has been made in character states chosen, the last remaining taxon is the species being identified. To determine whether this is correct, the specimen should be compared to its description, which can be accessed by clicking on the



information icon for that species. Also provided for each species are a brief nomenclatural history and images of the whole plant as well as close-ups of significant characteristics. A link is provided enabling one to jump to a netsearch should one wish to find out more about the species.

The photographs are of excellent quality. There are over 9000 images, with more than 2200 new images not included in the second edition. There are a total of 894 taxa, 204 more than occurred in the second edition. Also new to the third edition is inclusion of the flowering times, type photographs for many eucalypt names and comparative notes for discrimination of species in many large eucalypt groups.

Clicking on 'browse species information' opens to a list of all species included in EUCLID. Clicking on any species brings up its related fact sheet with descriptions, images and nomenclatural history. This is useful if the user already knows the identity of the specimen and wants further information on it, or believes he or she knows the specimen's identity but would like to double check. A useful component of this section is the inclusion of 'miscellaneous' names, such as synonyms that are no longer in use. Thus, if a species has undergone a name change, which is highly likely considering the number of relatively recent taxonomic reviews of the eucalypts, one

could use an older name that one is familiar with to gain information on the species and, conveniently, catch up with the name change at the same time.

'Finding out a little more about EUCLID' provides such things as contact details of those involved in developing EUCLID, but appropriate links allow one to jump to the other sections of the system.

The back cover of the DVD states 'EUCLID is the definitive electronic identification and information system now covering all 894 eucalypts of Australia in the one publication'. It definitely is! This amount of information would be cumbersome indeed in book form. EUCLID is easy to navigate even if you have rarely used a computer, and the helpful information icons and conveniently linked glossary allows identification of specimens even if one's botanical skills are almost non-existent. EUCLID is a must-buy for any botanist, ecologist, forester, land manager, educator, conservationist and student interested in eucalypts. At \$120.00 it is expensive but well worth it.

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#### Australian Natural History Medallion Trust Fund

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Andrew Isles	\$1000	Mrs Phyllis Western	\$10
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The Royal Society of Victoria Inc	\$200	The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria	\$200

If you would like to contribute to this fund, which supports the Australian Natural History Medallion, donations should be sent to: The Treasurer, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Locked Bag 3, PO Blackburn, Victoria 3130. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Natural History Medallion Trust Fund'.

The medallion is awarded annually to a person who is considered to have made the most significant contribution to the understanding of Australian natural history in the last ten years.